

E. coli Violations in Recreational Waters: Discussion of Agency Roles
December 17, 2009
Action Item and Meeting notes

Action Item follow-up e-mail:

>> Leah Ann Lamb 12/17/2009 7:45 PM >>>

Thank you all for participating in today's discussion. I just want to briefly recap next steps before I break for the holiday. Please review and let me know if I missed anything. Also, I would appreciate it if each agency confirms who will be on the E.Coli team. We look forward to a successful partnership in 2010!

Action Items:

1. Form an interagency team with representatives from each agency involved in today's meeting. This team will mirror the collaborative process used by the Mercury Workgroup but will have different members. Team will add members as necessary from other agencies.
3. DOH and DEQ team members will benchmark with other states to determine best practices regarding E.coli sampling and assessment methods, health advisories and beach closure protocols. Team will also follow-up on in-state experiences with Yuba Lake, Bear Lake, Lake Powell and the Colorado River.
3. Team will meet to develop protocols on how to handle E.coli exceedances.
4. Team will develop public information materials, including facts sheets, pamphlets, advisory notices, and website.

The goal is to have this work completed by May to insure we have a consistent and unified approach prior to the intensive outdoor water recreation season!!

Sandy Wingert Meeting Notes:

- DOH has the statutory responsibility for public beaches but has no rules yet. Also has the authority to issue notices for public health.
- DOH will defer to local health departments (LHD).
- Suggestion by DOH – test canal waters too.
- Yuba Lake impairments?
- The screening levels might be different for health vs. environmental concerns.
- State Parks (SP) manage the recreational opportunities and public safety but have different landowners.
- SP have the authority to close beaches in emergency but not capability of testing for E. coli.

- SP wants to take a low public profile because they are business oriented (keep visitor numbers high).
- SP – unfunded mandates are scary
- We all should follow the Hg program but include health risk assessment from DOH.
- DWQ's responsibility is to find the smoking gun and to restore waters. Issuing public notices are outside of DWQ.
- DOH will agree to go with EPA's recommended standards for E. coli for now while the group works out the human health risk assessment.
- Local HD & counties have no money.
- Goal: Identify a level of E coli that will lead to an advisory or beach closure by May/June 2010.
- Ask the Lake Powell Advisory Committee to chime in.
- DWQ – will find out what other States are doing about beach closures.
- Time line: Establish team → benchmark with other health and environmental agencies → protocol → public education.